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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECIN](#) [ECPS](#) [EINT](#) [MARR](#) [MCAP](#) [PREL](#) [XF](#)  
SUBJECT: GULF REGION COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE 2010 UPDATE

REF: 09 STATE 122229

¶1. This is an action request. See paragraph 6.

¶2. SUMMARY. Reftel announced a by-invitation-only Gulf Region Communications Conference (GRCC) in Amman, Jordan, 21-23 February 2010, co-hosted by United States Central Command (USCENTCOM) and the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). Reftel requested posts deliver a hold-the-date request to regional civilian and/or government attendees pending release of formal invitations. A separate notification was distributed to military attendees through military channels. On 4 February 2010, USCENTCOM forwarded to posts, in care of the security assistance offices, hard copy and electronic versions of the formal GRCC invitations, along with RSVP registration information and conference agenda, for delivery to attendees. Invitations are co-signed by Commander, USCENTCOM and by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, JAF. This cable requests posts deliver invitations and an update notification to regional civilian and/or government attendees to further highlight the conference and encourage participation. In order to ensure timely delivery of invitations, please deliver update notifications based on receipt of, and in conjunction with, the electronic invitations, and forward hard copy versions when they arrive. Draft update notification language is provided in paragraph

¶6. END SUMMARY

¶3. For reference, the following is the text for USCENTCOM's half of the formal joint invitation.

Dear Mr. Communications Minister,

On behalf of United States Central Command, I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2010 Gulf Region Communications Conference in Amman, Jordan during 21-23 February 2010.

The conference follows last year's inaugural conference in Bahrain. Again, our intent is to gather regional communications representatives to collaborate on topics of mutual interest in a Regional forum. Ministers of communications, communications regulatory commissioners, and senior military communicators from each of eleven Gulf Region states are invited to participate. Also, senior United States communications representatives from the federal, military, and private sectors are invited. Regional private sector representatives will also be invited.

Conference participants will be able to address regional communications capabilities and concerns and discuss opportunities to support regional stability and security efforts. The enclosed conference agenda is provided for your information.

We would be honored to have you join us. Mr. John Simpson, the Central Command point of contact (813-827-3931, simpsoja@centcom.mil), will accept replies. A detailed conference information packet will be sent separately.

With warm regards,

DAVID H. PETRAEUS  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander,  
United States Central Command

¶4. Also for reference, the following is the text for JAF's half of the formal joint invitation.

Dear Honorable Minister,

On behalf of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, I am pleased to invite you to attend the 2010 Gulf Region Communications Conference (GRCC) in Amman, Jordan during 21-23 February 2010.

We believe last year's conference in Bahrain was a great success, and we are looking forward to hosting distinguished communicators within the Kingdom of Jordan.

This next GRCC will enable us, as partners, to continue our examination and discussion of the Region's most significant communications concerns. We are hopeful that this forum and its actions will lead to improved capabilities, stability, and security within the Gulf Nations and across the Region.

Communications ministers and regulatory commissioners, and senior military communicators from each of eleven Gulf Region states are invited to participate. Also, senior United States communications representatives from the federal, military, and private sectors are invited. Representatives of the Gulf Region's private sector will also be invited. The enclosed conference agenda is provided for your information.

We would be honored to have you join us in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

With utmost respect,

General  
Khaled J. Al-Sarayreh  
Chairman Of The Joint Chiefs Of Staff  
Jordan Armed Forces

¶5. The agenda's structure and content reflect extensive collaboration with JAF, including integration of JAF-recommended panel discussions. Each participating nation will be given one speaking part (seat) on each panel and one speaking part (five minute presentation) during closing remarks. All attendees will be invited to participate in roundtable discussions. For reference, the GRCC Agenda follows:

21-23 February 2010  
Grand Hyatt Hotel  
Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Sunday, 21 February

Arrival of conference participants and registration at Grand Hyatt Hotel, Amman, Jordan, Telephone: 962-6-456-1234

1830-2000  
RECEPTION (Hotel Location TBD) - For ministers and distinguished visitors (DVs)  
HOST: U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM)  
ATTIRE/GENTLEMEN: Business/National Dress

ATTIRE/LADIES: Business (dress, pants outfit)/National Dress

Monday, 22 February

ATTIRE/GENTLEMEN: Business/National Dress/Class A Uniform

ATTIRE/LADIES: Business (dress, pants outfit)/National Dress/Class A Uniform

0800-0850

NO-HOST BREAKFAST

0900-0905

CONFERENCE WELCOME (Hotel Grand Ballroom) - Brigadier General Ghazi Salem Salman al-Jobor, Director of the Special Communications Commission, Jordan Ministry of Defense

0905-0910

TRANSLATION EQUIPMENT FAMILIARIZATION

0910-0930

CONFERENCE OPENING REMARKS - USCENTCOM and Kingdom of Jordan Representatives (TBD)

0930-1000

PRESENTATION 1 - His Excellency Marwan Juma, Jordan Minister of Information and Communications Technology

TOPIC: Sector Policy--Mobile Communications, Fixed Services, and Regional Connectivity

1000-1030

PRESENTATION 2 - Jordan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

TOPIC: Regulation of Telecommunications

1030-1045

BREAK

1045-1145

PRESENTATION 3 - Mr. Craig Mundie, Chief Research and Strategy Officer, Microsoft Corporation, United States

TOPIC: Cloud Computing

1145-1245

PANEL DISCUSSION 1 - Industry/Government Representatives

TOPIC: Implementing Cloud Computing Solutions to Information Exchange Challenges

1245-1345

LUNCH (Hotel Restaurant TBD) - For ministers and DVs

HOST: Jordan Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

1400-1415

GROUP PHOTO SESSION (Hotel Location TBD)

1415-1515

ROUNDTABLE 1 - Roundtable Moderator, TBD

TOPIC: Policy and Regulation Perspective--Improving Telecommunications across the Region and across the Commercial, Government, and Military Sectors

1515-1535

PRESENTATION 4A - Brigadier General Ghazi Salem Salman

al-Jobor, Jordan Ministry of Defense

TOPIC: Mobile Communications in Support of Relief Operations

1535-1555

PRESENTATION 4B - Brigadier General Mowafaq Assaf, Royal Jordanian Air Force

TOPIC: Fiber Infrastructure in Support of Government and Civilian Agencies

1555-1655

PANEL DISCUSSION 2 - Military Communicators

TOPIC: Mobile, Fixed, and Fiber Communications

1655-1830

FREE TIME

1830-1900

COCKTAILS (Hotel Location TBD) - For ministers and DVs

HOST: USCENTCOM

ATTIRE/GENTLEMEN: Business/National Dress

ATTIRE/LADIES: Business (dress, pants outfit)/National Dress

1900-2100

DINNER (Hotel Location TBD) - For ministers and DVs

HOST: Jordan Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

ATTIRE/GENTLEMEN: Business/National Dress

ATTIRE/LADIES: Business (dress, pants outfit)/National Dress

Tuesday, 23 February

ATTIRE/GENTLEMEN: Business/National Dress/Class A Uniform

ATTIRE/LADIES: Business (dress, pants outfit)/National

Dress/Class A Uniform

0800-0850

NO-HOST BREAKFAST

0900-0915

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS (Hotel Grand Ballroom) - Brigadier General Ghazi

0915-0945

PRESENTATION 5 - Lieutenant General Carroll F. Pollett, United States Army, Director, Defense Information Systems Agency

TOPIC: Synchronizing Commercial, Government, and Military Communications Priorities in the United States

0945-1015

PRESENTATION 6 - Mr Sami Smeirat, Chief Executive Officer, Orange Company, Jordan

TOPIC: Regional Reach

1015-1030

BREAK

1030-1130

ROUNDTABLE 2 - Roundtable Moderator

TOPIC: Synchronizing Wireless Challenges and Potential Solutions

1130-1200

PRESENTATION 7 - Mr. Nidal Qanadilo, Investment Manager, Jordan Ministry of Information and Communications Technology

TOPIC: Fiber Communications in Support of E-learning, E-government, and Rural Areas

1200-1300

LUNCH (Hotel Restaurant TBD) - For ministers and DVs

HOST: USCENTCOM

1345-1415

ROUNDTABLE 3 - Roundtable Moderator

TOPIC: Regional Fiber Backbone Solutions to Civilian, Government and Military Challenges

1415-1445

ROUNDTABLE 4 - Brigadier General Donahue, Roundtable Moderator

TOPIC: 2010 Conference Action Items and 2011 Conference Theme and Topics

1445-1500

BREAK

COUNTRY REMARKS

1500-1510, Kingdom of Bahrain

1510-1520, Arab Republic of Egypt

1520-1530, Republic of Iraq

1530-1540, State of Kuwait

1540-1550, Republic of Lebanon

1550-1600, Sultanate of Oman

1600-1610, State of Qatar

1610-1620, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

1620-1630, United Arab Emirates  
1630-1640, Republic of Yemen

1640-1700  
CLOSING REMARKS - USCENTCOM and Jordan Representatives TBD

1700  
CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

**16. Action Request:** Washington agencies request posts ensure delivery of invitations and deliver the following update notification regarding GRCC 2010 to the appropriate regional civilian and/or government attendees by 8 February 2010. Please notify the USCENTCOM and State POCs in paragraph 7 on completion of action by 10 February 2010. Email replies are acceptable.

Dear (Embassies, please address invitations to appropriate individuals listed),

**ABU DHABI:**

-- His Excellency Muhammad bin Ahmad Alqamzi, Chairman  
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority  
-- His Excellency Mohamed Nassar Al Ghanim, Director General  
and Board Member Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

**BAGHDAD:**

-- His Excellency Farooq Abdulqadir Abdulrahman, Minister of  
Communications  
-- Barhan Shawi Al-Tamimi, DG, Communications & Media  
Commission  
-- His Excellency Mazin Hashim Al-Haboubi, CEO Deputy for  
Administrative Affairs

**BEIRUT:**

-- His Excellency Mr. Charbel Nahas, Minister of  
Telecommunications  
-- Dr. Kamal S. Shehadi, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
of Telecommunications Regulatory Agency

**CAIRO:**

-- His Excellency Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communications  
and Information Technology  
-- Dr. Amr Badawy, Executive President of National  
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

**DOHA:**

-- His Excellency Dr. Hessa Al-Jaber, Secretary General  
Supreme Council of Information & Communications Technology  
-- Mister William Fagan, Director, Supreme Council of  
Information & Communications Technology

**KUWAIT:**

-- Dr. Mohammed Mohsen Al-Busairi, Minister of Communications

**MANAMA:**

-- Dr. Mohammed Al Amer, Chairman and Acting General  
Director, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

**MUSCAT:**

-- His Excellency Dr. Khamis bin Mubarak al Alawi, Minister  
of Transportation and Communications  
-- His Excellency Mohammed Nasser Al-Khusaibi, Chairman,  
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

**RIYADH:**

-- Mister Mohammed Jameel bin Ahmed Mulla, Minister of  
Communications and Information Technology  
-- Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Jafari, Governor Communications and  
Information Technology Commission

**SANAA:**

-- His Excellency Kamal Al-Jabri, Minister of  
Telecommunications & Information Technology

United States Central Command and the Jordanian Armed Forces  
will co-host the by-invitation-only Gulf Region  
Communications Conference (GRCC) 2010 in Amman, Jordan on

21-23 February 2010. Formal invitations have been distributed to you separately along with details regarding RSVPs and registration and the conference agenda. GRCC 2010 will continue GRCC 2009 multilateral engagement on regional telecommunications and information sharing capabilities and will foster cooperation among our respective entities in order to overcome challenges, to include crisis response and/or disaster relief missions.

GRCC 2010 presentations and discussions support a theme of Synchronizing Commercial, Government and Military Communications Priorities. GRCC 2010 adds panel discussions to the GRCC 2009 conference format of presentations and roundtables. Each nation attending the conference will be given one seat for a national representative on each panel. As with GRCC 2009, roundtable discussions will be open to participation by all attendees. Each nation attending the conference will also be given five minutes for one national representative to present closing remarks. Please identify to the conference co-hosts as soon as possible those individuals who will represent (post, please insert here your nation) on each panel and present closing remarks.

I encourage you to attend the conference.

Sincerely,  
(DoS originator name)  
(DoS originator title)  
U.S. Department of State

**17. CENTCOM point of contact for the conference:**

Jim Ramirez DAFC  
U.S. Central Command  
Deputy, Strategic C4 Architecture Programs and Policy  
Division  
\* (813) 827-5816 DSN 651-5816  
\* ramirejs@centcom.mil  
\* ramirejs@centcom.smil.mil

State Department points of contact for the conference:

COL Dave Huggins  
Senior Military Advisor, Near Eastern Affairs Bureau  
\* (202) 647-3945  
\* HugginsWD@state.sgov.gov

Steve Simpson  
Communications and Information Policy / Middle East  
Energy, Economic, and Business Affairs  
\* (202) 647-5306  
\* SimpsonSC@state.gov  
\* SimpsonSC@state.sgov.gov  
CLINTON